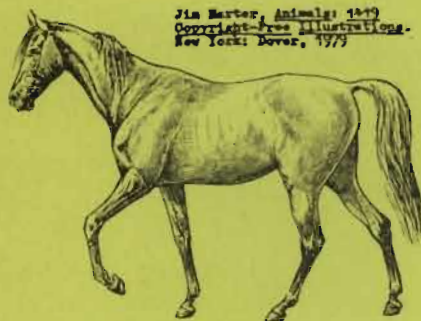


# ***Bentley*** ***A Mare For All*** ***Seasons***



To ride in Winter means  
The winds of heaven  
Course through our common heart;  
Hooves strike the frozen ground,  
Yet, lovely as a snowflake,  
She treads above the cold of earth;  
--And comfort there is,  
Comfort in the brown sides, warm.

Spring:--her daintiness  
Matches the unfolding freshness  
Of new leaves;  
Running from the pasture at my call,  
She brings joy,--  
Joy like the onrush of green,  
Spreading now over the gray earth  
With gladness.

Astride, Summer sunlight  
Patterns the leaf surfaces  
Into forms not seen on foot;  
The graceful shapes  
Like the rhythm of her flowing body,  
Stirred by a soft breeze;  
Each unduplicated,  
Suffused by summer's rich fulfillment.

Yet would I name her  
For the Autumn:  
October's red-brown promise;  
Her coat plain-leaf russet,  
With no flash of white;  
Like oak, then, strong, and the burnish  
Of the acorn; hickory, chestnut:  
Rich splendor of earth's harvest.

**ELIZABETH ATWOOD LAWRENCE**  
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